

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 14, and 15 are pending in this application. Claims 10, 14, and 15 are amended and Claims 9, 11-13, 16, 23, 25-33, 35-40, 42-44, and 47-49 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. As amended Claims 10, 14, and 15 are supported by the original disclosure, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 23 and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 23, 25-33, 35-40, 42-44, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Limon, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,435, herein “Limon”); and Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Limon.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 23 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. §101, it is respectfully noted that Claims 23 and 25-31 are canceled, making this rejection moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 23, 25-33, 35-40, 42-44, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Limon, Claims 23, 25-33, 35-40, 42-44, and 47-49 are canceled, making this rejection moot.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Limon, Claims 9 and 11 are canceled, making this rejection moot with respect to these claims. With regard to amended Claim 10, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 10 recites an inspecting apparatus comprising, *inter alia*:

a PLD configured to inspect a circuit baseboard using at least two PLD files based upon a signal from the circuit baseboard;

a PLD file storing device configured to store a plurality of PLD files;

a correspondence assigning device configured to assign correspondence of a PLD file to a circuit baseboard to be inspected;

a registering memory configured to store information of the correspondence;

an ID reading device configured to read identification information and identify a circuit baseboard, said identification information being previously included in the inspection objective circuit baseboard; and

a specifying device configured to refer to the correspondence information and specify a PLD file based on the circuit baseboard identified by the ID reading device; and

a loading device configured to load the prescribed PLD with the applicable PLD file.

The outstanding Office Action cited workstation 41 of Limon as describing “a PLD” and column 2, lines 57-59 of Limon as describing “a correspondence assigning device.”<sup>1</sup> However, it is respectfully submitted that workstation 41 of Limon already stores a prescribed program for a prescribed purpose. Thus, Limon does not describe storing a programmable file in workstation 41 at a user site. In contrast, in the claimed invention, a program is optionally stored in the PLD at a user site for the first time. Specifically, the PLD file can be uniquely created at the user site. Thus, the PLD file is optionally created and stored in the PLD at a user site before testing a baseboard. Therefore, Limon does not describe “a PLD” as defined in amended Claim 10.

Further, with regard to the claimed correspondence assigning device, column 2, lines 57-59 of Limon does not describe any device configured to assign correspondence of a PLD file to a circuit baseboard to be loaded with the PLD file. In fact, the cited portion of Limon does not describe a PLD file or circuit baseboard, much less a device that assigns a correspondence between those two items. Therefore, Limon does not describe “a correspondence assigning device” as defined in amended Claim 10 either.

As Limon does not teach or suggest “a PLD” and “a correspondence assigning device” as recited in Claim 10, Claim 10 (and dependent Claims 14 and 15) is patentable over Limon.

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<sup>1</sup>See the outstanding Office Action at pages 6 and 7.

Moreover, with respect to amended Claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that Limon is silent as to continuous usage of a PLD file or files used in a previous action in a next inspection. In contrast, in the invention recited in Claim 14, plural PLD files are used for inspection and are partially replaced when a type of inspection objective is changed, while one or more PLD files can be continuously used for the next inspection due to a similarity of the type of the baseboards. This improvement significantly increases efficiency in inspection performance when inspecting various types of baseboards. Thus, Limon does not teach or suggest “a load completed PLD file determining device” and “an additional PLD file specifying device” as defined in amended Claim 14. Accordingly, Claim 14 further patentably defines over Limon.

Finally, with respect to amended Claim 15, a log stores information specifying a prescribed PLD file stored in the PLD for inspection, so that a prescribed PLD file to be continuously used replaced can be identified. In contrast, Limon does not describe any such log. Thus, Limon can not teach or suggest “a log obtaining device” as defined in amended Claim 15. Accordingly, Claim 15 further patentably defines over Limon.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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